**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Mental Health Association of Rockland and The Mental Health Association of Westchester Announce Intent to Merge**

***Nearly 150 years of combined history and shared commitment to person-centered, integrated behavioral health care services***

TARRYTOWN, NY (August 8, 2022)— The Mental Health Association of Rockland and The Mental Health Association of Westchester have announced their intent to merge and create a combined behavioral healthcare organization. By increasing the size and scope of services, the new organization will build upon a long legacy of reducing barriers to quality mental health care in the greater Hudson Valley region.

Upon state approval of the merger, the new organization will serve more than 15,000 people across the region through a wide array of integrated services – including therapy, care management, peer services, employment services, residential services, medication management, substance use recovery and more – as well as educational opportunities and advocacy efforts. Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics in Mount Kisco, White Plains, Yonkers and Upper Nyack complement a variety of community-based, mobile services for all ages. Services will continue uninterrupted as the agencies work to complete the merger.

Stephanie Madison, LMSW, President/CEO of The Mental Health Association of Rockland, characterized the merger as the natural evolution of the robust relationship the two agencies have enjoyed for decades. “This merger will expand opportunities for quality mental health care in our communities.  Our agencies share a long-standing commitment to providing person-centered services and supports that help clients achieve their goals. These services are needed now more than ever, and together, we proudly bring nearly 150 years of experience to the table to serve the larger community.”

Charlotte Östman, LCSW-R, CEO of The Mental Health Association of Westchester, identified the merger as mirroring the agencies’ values. “For more than 75 years, we have responded to the needs of our community by creating person-centered, trauma-informed behavioral health services delivered where, when and how they best benefit each individual. Today, we see these needs increasing at a rapid speed due to countless current events and injustices. By joining forces, we will be able to increase the ability and agility with which we deliver and create new services, ultimately helping more individuals strengthen their resilience and find hope on their journey.”

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**About The Mental Health Association of Rockland**

Established in 1951, Mental Health Association of Rockland is the premier provider of behavioral health services in the community, engaging more than 5,000 individuals annually. MHA of Rockland consistently strives to improve the quality of life for those affected by mental health issues. They offer a vast array of therapeutic and residential services to the Rockland community. To learn more, visit [www.mharockland.org](http://www.mharockland.org)

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**About The Mental Health Association of Westchester**

Founded in 1946, The Mental Health Association of Westchester promotes mental health through advocacy, community education and direct services. A federally designated Certified Community Behavioral Health Center with clinics in Mount Kisco, Upper Nyack, White Plains and Yonkers, as well as an array of community-based care, MHA offers a range of services that are recovery-oriented, trauma-informed and individualized to promote recovery and wellness. To learn more, visit [www.mhawestchester.org](http://www.mhawestchester.org).

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